

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 /062 W

----- 040848

R 030914Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5110

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, MY

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE COLUMNIST LINKS MALAYSIAN BANAS WITH
SOUTHERN INSURGENCY

REF: MANILA A-93

1. SIGNED COLUMN IN JULY 2 MANILA EVENING POST ACCUSES
MALAYSIA OF PLANNING TO SET UP A 3,000-HECTARE BANANA
ESTATE TO CAPTURE PART OF THE JAPANESE MARKET AFTER
PHILIPPINES HAVE VOLUNTARILY SET CEILINGS ON PRODUCTION.
COLUMNIST MARIO CHANCO ACCUSES MALAYSIANS OF "TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF OUR SELF-RESTRAINT" AND SAYS EFFORT TO
ELBOW IN ON JAPANESE BANANA MARKET ESTABLISHED BY
PHILIPPINE EFFORTS IS "THE HEIGHT OF COMMERCIAL DIS-
COURTESY." ACCORDING CHANCO, "MALAYSIANS ARE USING
THE BANANA ISSUE TO TRY TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT THEIR
SOUTHERN SECESSIONIST COHORTS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DO."
HE CONCLUDES BY SUGGESTING THAT MALAYSIANS SHOULD CON-
SIDER USING 3,000 HECTARES TO RESETTLE "ALL THOSE CHAPS
THEY'SVE BEEN GOADING TO TAKE OVER THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES."

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2. BANANA ISSUE WAS PICKED UP BRIEFLY BY ESTABLISHMENT

COLUMNIST DOROY VALENCIA IN JULY 3 MANILA BULLETIN.
CONTRARY TO CHANCO, HE ARGUES THAT MALAYSIAN BANANA VENTURE NOT A BAD IDEA SINCE IT MIGHT PREVENT PHILIPPINE OVER-DEPENDENCE ON THIS COMMODITY, A LA SUGAR.

3. COMMENT: FOR AT LEAST A YEAR GOP HAS REFRAINED FROM PUBLICLY ACCUSING MALAYSIANS OF INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN INSURGENCY AND GUIDED PRESS AND BEEN ACCORDINGLY SILENT ON THIS ISSUE. APPEARANCE OF CHANCO COLUMN IN NEW EVENING PAPER EDITED BY KERIMA POLOTAN (WHO IS WIFE OF PRESIDENTIAL AIDE JUAN TUVERA AND CONFIDANT OF FIRST LADY) MAY BE OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE. NEVERTHELESS, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO CONCLUDE THAT MEDIA NEEDLINGS PORTEND ANY FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN GOP-GOM RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE REMAINED FRACTIOUS BENEATH RECENT SURFACE CALM.

4. TEXT PERTIENT PRESS ITEMS BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT AND KUALA LUMPUR. PURNELL

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NNN

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